Claims

[c1]   A system for performing transactions using transaction codes comprising:

an issuer apparatus for issuing a transaction code to a customer and storing the issued transaction code in a database;

a transaction apparatus for associating the transaction code with a document to perform a transaction and for performing the transaction using the document with the associated transaction code; and

a verification means of the issuer apparatus for verifying the transaction by performing a comparison between the issued transaction code stored in the database and the transaction code associated with the document, the is-suer apparatus modifying the transaction code in the database after positive verification of the transaction.

[c2]   The system of Claim 1 wherein the transaction apparatus is a portable handheld device comprising a display mod-ule and transaction module.

[c3]   The system of Claim 2 wherein the transaction module includes:

a transaction code storage means for storing issued

transaction codes; and

a signature generation means for generating a document
signature by encoding the transaction code along with
document data required to be associated with the docu-
ment and wherein the transaction code and the docu-
ment signature are then associated with the document;
and

a data indicator associated with the document and indi-
cating which of the document data is used to generate
the document signature.

[c4]   The system of Claim 3 wherein the transaction apparatus
includes a printer for printing the transaction code and
the document signature onto the document.

[c5]   The system of Claim 1 wherein the transaction codes are
unique for each particular type of transaction performed
by a particular customer.

[c6]   The system of Claim 5 wherein the transaction codes are
consecutive.

[c7]   The system of Claim 5 wherein the document is a hard-
copy document.

[c8]   The system of Claim 5 wherein the document is a hard-
copy check.

[c9] The system of Claim 5 wherein the document is a piece of paper without customer-specific information printed thereon.

[c10] The system of Claim 9 wherein a document signature and the transaction code are written on the piece of paper without customer-specific information, thereby changing the piece of paper into a document corresponding to a particular customer.

[c11] The system of Claim 10 wherein the document corresponding to a particular customer is a check.

[c12] The system of Claim 11 wherein the transaction apparatus is a portable handheld device comprising a display module and transaction module, the transaction module including a transaction code storage means for storing issued transaction codes and a signature generation means for generating the document signature and wherein the transaction code and document signature are copied by the customer from the display module and written on the piece of paper changing the piece of paper into a document corresponding to the particular customer.

[c13] The system of Claim 11 wherein the transaction apparatus is a portable handheld device comprising:

a transaction code storage means for storing issued transaction codes;

a signature generation means for generating the document signature; and

a printer for printing the transaction code and the document signature onto the piece of paper thereby changing the piece of paper into a document corresponding to the particular customer.

[c14] The system of Claim 11 wherein the transaction code is a check number.

[c15] The system of Claim 11, wherein the transaction is the payment of a bill.

[c16] The system of Claim 5 wherein the document is an electronic document.

[c17] The system of Claim 5 wherein the document is an electronic check.

[c18] The system of Claim 17 wherein the transaction apparatus comprises:

a transaction code storage means for storing issued transaction codes;

a display module for displaying pre-stored data including a transaction code and pre-stored data selected from the set consisting of: account number, account name,

and routing number; and the display module also displaying a prompt for the customer to input indicated information selected from the set consisting of: date, payee and amount;

a signature generation means for generating a document signature by encoding the transaction code along with the pre-stored data and the indicated information; and

a data indicator associated with the document and indicating which of the document data is used to generate the document signature.

[c19] The system of Claim 1 wherein the issuer apparatus issues the transaction code to the customer via SMS or MMS.

[c20] The system of Claim 1 wherein the issuer apparatus modifies the transaction code in the database after verifying the transaction by removing the transaction code from the database or by flagging the transaction code in the database.

[c21] The system of Claim 1 wherein the issuer apparatus is associated with an issuer bank.

[c22] The system of Claim 21 further comprising a payee apparatus associated with a payee for receiving the document with the associated transaction code from the

transaction apparatus and for forwarding the document to the issuer bank.

[c23]   The system of Claim 22 wherein the payee apparatus forwards the document to the issuer bank by clearing the document through a payee bank used by the payee.

[c24]   The system of Claim 22 wherein the payee apparatus forwards the document to the issuer bank by clearing the document through an ATM machine by manually entering at least part of the transaction data into the ATM machine.

[c25]   The system of Claim 22 wherein the payee verifies fund availability of the customer through the issuer bank prior to formally accepting the document and prior to the customer notifying the issuer bank to activate the document to allow payment to the payee.

[c26]   The system of Claim 23 wherein the clearing includes authenticating the identity of the payee.

[c27]   The system of Claim 3 wherein the issuer apparatus is associated with an issuer bank and the document is a fund transfer request to the issuer bank.

[c28]   The system of Claim 1, wherein the database is a database of the issuer apparatus.

[c29]   The system of Claim 1, wherein the database is a database of the transaction apparatus.

[c30]   The system of Claim 28, wherein the issuer apparatus generates the transaction code by applying a mathematical formula to a reference code and wherein the issuer apparatus stores the reference code in the database of the issuer apparatus without storing the issued transaction code in the database of the issuer apparatus.

[c31]   The system of Claim 30, wherein the reference code includes an account number of the customer.

[c32]   A method for performing transactions using transaction codes comprising the steps of:
issuing transaction codes which are unique for particular types of transactions to a customer;
storing the issued transaction codes in a database;
selecting a transaction code from the issued transaction codes;
associating the transaction code with a document to perform a transaction;
performing the transaction using the document with the associated transaction code;
verifying the transaction by performing a comparison between the issued transaction code stored in the

database and the transaction code associated with the document; and

modifying the transaction code in the database after positive verification of the transaction.